

X. *Further Descriptions of new Genera and Species of*
Phytophaga. By J. S. BALLY.

[Read 3rd October, 1864.]

Fam. HISPIDÆ.

Genus CHARISTENA.

Corpus elongatum, angustatum, sæpe filiforme, parallelum, subcylindricum. *Caput* inter oculos non productum, obtusum; *antennis* subfiliformibus, inter partem inferiorem oculorum insertis, 11-articulatis, articulis distinctis, quinque ultimis clavam gracilem sed distinctam formantibus; *epistomate* brevi, basi elevatâ. *Thorax* subcylindricus, lateribus subrectis aut leviter rotundatis. *Scutellum* truncatum. *Elytra* thorace paullo latiora, elongata aut subelongata, lateribus rectis, parallelis, rarius minute serratis, apice rotundatis, semper serratis, angulis posticis obsoletis; supra convexa aut subcylindrica, utraque tricostata, interspatiis profunde bifariam punctatis. *Pedes* mediocres, modice robusti; *tibiis* intermediis curvatis, apice in dentem brevem acutum introrsum productis; *tarsorum* articulo basali duobus sequentibus angustiori; *unguiculis* contiguis.

Type *Charistena ruficollis*, Fab.

This genus is nearly allied to *Odontota*; its slender form, blunt head, distinct joints of antennæ, and curved intermediate tibiæ, are characters which taken conjointly will easily separate it from that genus.

Sp. 1. *Charistena ruficollis*, Fabr.

Syst. El. ii. 63; Oliv. Entom. vi. 778, pl. ii. fig. 34.

Hab. Cayenne; Bahia.

Var. A. Elytris utrisque lineâ longitudinali, postice abbreviatâ, fulvâ.

Collections of Rev. H. Clark, A. Fry, W. W. Saunders, and my own cabinet.

This species is nearest, both in coloration and form, to *Ch. Ariadne*. In the present insect the base of the thorax is concolorous with the disc, the general surface is also more coarsely punctured; the elytra are less cylindrical, being somewhat flattened above, and their costæ more distinctly elevated; their apical margin is also more distinctly serrate. The much smaller size

and entirely different colour will distinguish it from *Ch. basalis*, its narrower form from *Ch. Lecontii*, the different colour and form of thorax from *Ch. nigrita*, and its much narrower and more elongated shape from *Ch. Pilatei* and all the other species in the present paper.

Sp. 2. *Charistena nigrita*, Oliv.

Entom. vi. 778, pl. ii. fig. 35.

Hab. Carolina.

In my own Collection and that of the Rev. H. Clark, to whom I am indebted for a specimen.

Thorax distinctly longer than broad, sides slightly rounded, narrowed in front; surface very closely covered with large deep punctures, almost rugose; base of thorax indistinctly depressed transversely, but without any trace of sulcation; apex of elytra minutely serrate.

The entirely black colour, together with the shape of the thorax, at once separates this insect from its congeners.

Sp. 3. *Charistena Ariadne*, Newm.

The Entom. i. 77.

"Nigra, prothorace tantum rubro: prothorax profunde punctus; utrumque elytron 3-carinatum, marginibus quoque elevatis; interspatiis seriebus 2 punctorum profundorum impressis. Insectum longum (corp. long. .175 unc., lat. .05 unc.)"

Hab. United States of North America.

Mr. Newman has omitted to mention the black apical and basal margins of the thorax, which are very marked in the present species. I venture to correct his description, having one of his typical specimens in my own possession. I have reproduced his description entire from the "Entomologist," the latter being a book seldom to be met with.

As stated under *Ch. ruficollis*, the more cylindrical body and coarsely punctured thorax will distinguish *Ch. Ariadne* from its allies.

Collections of British Museum, Rev. H. Clark, and my own.

Sp. 4. *Charistena Lecontii*.

Elongata, tenuis, angustata, subcylindrica, dorso subdepressa, nigra, nitida; thorace transverso, lateribus rotundatis, ad apicem vix angustatis, dorso crebre profunde punctato, basi

transversim sulcato, disci medio vittâ elevatâ instructo, rufo-fulvo, apice basique medio nigris; elytris apice minute serratis, lateribus minus rectis.

Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. North America.

Its larger size, broader and less cylindrical form, together with the transverse thorax, will distinguish this species from *Ch. Ariadne*, the other North American species with which it may be confounded; the two strongly resemble each other in colour.

Collection of Rev. H. Clark, and my own.

Sp. 5. *Charistena basalis*.

Elongata, filiformis, subcylindrica, nigra, nitida; thorace convexo, fulvo, basi transversim impresso, crebre profunde punctato, vittâ centrali obsolete elevatâ, impunctatâ; elytris elongatis, parallelis, apice distincte serratis, cyaneis, utrisque plagâ basali parvâ fulvâ.

Long. $3\frac{1}{4}$ lin.

Hab. Amazons. Collected by Mr. H. W. Bates.

Entirely similar in form to *Ch. ruficollis*, quite three times its size, its thorax rather longer and more convex; the apex of the elytra is however subacutely rounded.

Collection of H. W. Bates, also in my own cabinet.

Sp. 6. *Charistena Deyrollei*.

Elongata, subcylindrica, dorso subdepressa, nigra, nitida; elytris nigro-cæruleis; thorace, femorum anticorum basi, elytrorumque vittâ latâ laterali, vix pone medium abbreviatâ, pallide fulvis; thorace sat convexo, basi transversim depresso, profunde punctato.

Long. $2\frac{1}{3}$ lin.

Hab. Upper Amazons, Columbia.

Elytra parallel, their apex finely but irregularly toothed.

I have named this pretty species after my friend M. H. Deyrolle of Paris, who is making a special study of the *Phytophaga*.

Collections of H. Deyrolle, H. W. Bates, A. Fry, and my own cabinet.

Sp. 7. *Charistena bellula*.

Minus elongata, minus parallela, nigra, nitida; facie inferiori femorumque basi obscure fulvis; thorace vix transverso, læte rufo-fulvo, profunde sed subremote punctato, convexo,

basi transversim depresso; elytris cyaneis, dorso depressis, apice minute serratis.

Long. $1\frac{2}{3}$ —2 lin.

Hab. Bogota.

Much shorter and proportionately broader than *Ch. ruficollis*, sides of elytra less straight than in that species; thorax as deeply but less closely punctured on the sides, depression at the base less deeply marked.

Collections of H. Deyrolle, Rev. H. Clark, and my own.

Sp. 8. *Charistena elegantula*.

Minus elongata, angustata, subcylindrica, dorso subdepressa, rufo-fulva, nitida; corpore infra pedibusque nigro-variegatis; oculis antennisque nigris; thorace latitudine vix longiori, lateribus fere rectis, ad apicem leniter angustatis; dorso subcylindrico, profunde subremote punctato, spatio longitudinali centrali impunctato, basi transversim sulcata; elytris nigro-cyaneis, apice minute serratis, utrisque puncto apicali, prope suturam posito, fulvo.

Long. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. New Granada.

The different form of thorax, together with the different coloration, will separate this lovely species from *Ch. bellula*.

Cabinet of Rev. H. Clark, also in my own Collection.

Sp. 9. *Charistena Pilatei*.

Minus elongata, parallela, subcylindrica, nigra, nitida; thorace fulvo, apice piceo-marginato, dorso subgloboso, basi transversim sulcato, lateribus subremote disco remote punctato; elytris cyaneis, parallelis, apice minute serratis, utrisque vittâ fulvâ a basi apicem versus plus minusve extensâ, instructis.

Long. 2 lin.

Hab. Teapa. Collected by the late M. Pilate.

Rather longer, stouter and more parallel than *Ch. bellula*, to which species it is most nearly allied. Elytra parallel, their apex broadly rounded. The fulvous stripe on each elytron varies greatly in length, and occasionally is nearly obsolete; the piceous apical border of the thorax is also sometimes very much narrowed and indistinct.

In the cabinet of the Rev. H. Clark, also in my own Collection.

Sp. 10. *Charistena trilineata*. *

Subelongata, angustata, subcylindrica, dorso subdepressa, rufopulva, nitida; antennis (basi exceptâ) scutelloque nigris; elytrorum vittâ suturali, alterâque laterali, hac ante apicem abbreviatâ, obscure cyaneis; vertice, thoracis lateribus anguste, tibiârum apice tarsisque piceis; thorace rude punctato, basi non transversim depresso, disci medio obsolete longitudinaliter sulcato.

Long. $1\frac{2}{3}$ lin.

Hab. Yucatan.

Thorax transversely convex, its sides parallel, slightly rounded; elytra depressed along the suture, lateral and apical edges minutely but not closely serrate; apex of abdomen obscure fuscous.

The more depressed form both of thorax and elytra will serve to separate this species from *Ch. Pilatei*.

Collection of Rev. H. Clark, and my own.

GENUS METAXYCERA.

Corpus obcuneiforme, dorso depressum. *Caput* inter oculos vix productum; *antennis* 11-articulatis, rigidis, subfusiformibus, apice acutis, modice robustis, corporis dimidio brevioribus, articulis cylindricis, duobus basalibus brevibus, primo paullo incrassato, tertio modice elongato; *oculis* vix prominulis; *mento* oblongo, lateribus medio sinuatis. *Thorax* transversus; lateribus pone medium fere rectis, antice angustatis, sinuatis; angulo antico acuto, sæpe dente parvo armato; dorso modice transversim convexo; basi transversim depressa. *Scutellum* truncatum. *Elytra* thorace latiora, a basi ad apicem ampliata; apice obtuso aut rotundato, angulis posticis obtusis aut rotundatis; anguste marginata, margine serrato; dorso depressa, utraque quadricostata, costa tertia minus distincta, interspatiis profunde bifariam punctatis. *Pedes* mediocres, modice robusti; *tarsorum* articulo basali parvo; *unguiculis* contiguus. *Abdomen* suturâ inter segmenta duo basalia ventris distinctâ.

Type *Metaxycera purpurata*, Guér.

This genus is (like the last) nearly allied to *Odontota*; but although much more different in habit, it is more difficult to find good differential characters. It may, however, be separated by the slight prominence of the head in front, by the subfusiform cylindrical 11-jointed antennæ, and the distinct sutural line be-

tween the two basal segments of the ventral surface of the abdomen; this line is usually obsolete or only indistinct in *Odontota*.

Sp. 1. *Metaxycera purpurata*, Guér.

Icon. du Règne Animal, Texte, p. 270.

Hab. Brazil.

This beautiful species is the most common of the genus, and found in most collections; it is broader than any of the others, with the exception of *M. rubroguttata*, which insect approaches it very closely in form, but is less flattened above.

Sp. 2. *Metaxycera rubroguttata*.

Obcuneiformis, dorso depressa, late rufo-testacea, subnitida; vertice postice, thoracisque plaga magna discoidali nigropiceis; antennis elytrisque nigris, his a basi ad apicem perparum ampliatis, apice rotundatis, utrisque margine humerali pustulisque quinque, harum tribus prope suturam, prima infra basim, secunda prope medium, tertiaque apicem versus, duabusque intra marginem exteriorem, prima infra humerum, secunda prope angulum posticum positus, rufo-testaceis.

Long. 5 lin.

Hab. Amazons.

The four hinder spots on each elytron are confluent in pairs, and form two oblique fasciæ on the disc; thorax transverse, sides nearly straight and parallel behind, obliquely narrowed in front; upper surface irregularly excavated, opaque, irregularly but not closely punctured, middle of disc with an indistinct longitudinal groove; scutellum black, its apex rufous.

This species closely resembles in form *M. purpurata*, Guér.; it is, however, less depressed, less coarsely punctured, more regularly rounded both at the hinder angles and apex, and the arrangement of the spots on the elytra is different.

Unique in my own Collection.

Sp. 3. *Metaxycera trimaculata*, Oliv.

(*Hispa*), Entom. vi. 761, pl. i. fig. 5.

Hab. Cayenne.

Olivier describes this species as having a black scutellum; it varies, however, greatly in this respect, some specimens having the scutellum more or less stained with rufous, others entirely red.

Collection of Rev. H. Clark, and my own.

Sp. 4. *Metaxycera Amazona*.

Anguste oboviformis, dorso depressa, rufo-testacea, nitida, supra subnitida; antennis, vertice, thoracisque lateribus nigris; elytris obscure nigro-æneis, apice obtusis, utrisque vitta lata discoidali, a basi ad paullo pone medium extensa, plerumque apice extrorsum ampliata, fasciaque lata pone medium, extrorsum abbreviata, postice recte truncata aut concava, antice convexa, rufo-testaceis.

Var. A. Vertice thoracisque lateribus rufis; elytris nigris, ut in typo maculatis.

Long. 4 lin.

Hab. Amazons. Collected by Mr. H. W. Bates.

Sides of thorax straight and parallel behind the middle, obliquely converging from the middle to the apex, and forming an obtuse angle with the hinder half; surface coarsely punctured, punctures crowded on the sides, more distant on the disc, the latter impressed with a broad longitudinal groove, which terminates behind at a transverse depression in front of the basal margin.

This species is very closely allied to *M. trimaculata*, Oliv. It may be, however, distinguished from that insect by the following characters: in *M. Amazona* the thorax is broader and more distinctly angled on the sides, the longitudinal groove on its upper surface being broader and very deeply impressed; the scutellum is always red; the elytra are rather less coarsely punctured and more opaque, the costæ being also somewhat narrower; the transverse rufous patch is placed at a greater distance from the apex of the elytra, is broader, and has its front edge strongly rounded, its hinder border being either truncate or slightly concave. In *M. trimaculata* the antennæ are rather more robust; the thorax is narrower (in some specimens almost conic), less distinctly angled on the sides, the upper surface less flattened, the longitudinal groove, although visible, being also much narrower and less deeply impressed; the scutellum is usually black, rarely wholly or in part rufous; the elytra are more coarsely punctured, the costæ being broader and more nitidous; the longitudinal rufous vitta is narrower, its hinder half not dilated towards the outer margin; it is also usually interrupted in the middle to form two linear patches; the subapical transverse patch is narrow, and placed much nearer the apex of the elytra, its anterior border, instead of being rounded, is nearly straight and bisinuate, and its hinder margin is either straight or very slightly convex.

Collection of Mr. Bates, and my own.

Sp. 5. *Metaxycera sexpustulata*.

Anguste obcuneiformis, dorso depressa, rufo-testacea, nitida, supra subnitida; antennis elytrisq̄ue nigris, his subparallelis, apicem versus leniter ampliatis, apice rotundatis, utrisque pustulis tribus, unâ basali oblongâ obliquâ, secundâ prope medium subquadratâ, tertiâque ante apicem, transversâ, communi, fasciam transversam postice bisemarginatam formante, rufo-testaceis; unguiculis piceis.

Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $4\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. Upper Amazons.

Thorax opaque, irregularly depressed and excavated, middle of disc with an indistinct longitudinal groove, transverse impression in front of base well marked, surface coarsely but not very closely punctured, sides of thorax nearly straight and produced obliquely outwards behind the middle, thence obliquely narrowed to the apex.

The rounded apex of the elytra separates this species from *M. trimaculata* and *Amazona*, the only insects with which it can be confounded.

Collection of Mr. Bates, and my own.